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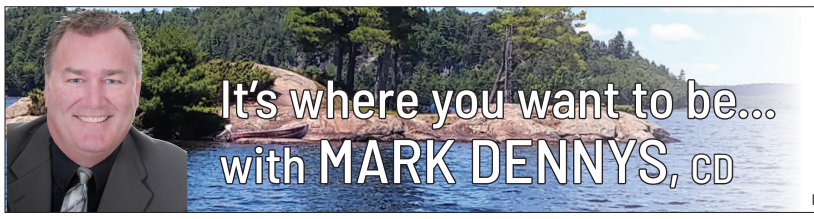

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Financial challenges due to pandemic plague HHHS

SUE TIFFIN
Staff Reporter

Haliburton Highlands Health Services is facing significant financial challenges due to the extra costs incurred during the pandemic, one of those challenges being related to the Haliburton assessment centre.

The assessment centre, where COVID-19 tests are conducted for people in Haliburton County, was set up in the parking lot of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre at the end of March. A trailer is now in place as an assessment centre to be used during the colder months.

"We've had to figure out an alternative for getting us through the winter months, given that we've been using a tent for sort of a drive-through assessment centre model," said Carolyn Plummer, HHHS CEO at a board meeting held virtually on Oct. 29.

see FUNDING page 4

Eyes on the puck

With the puck flying past the net for the Black team, a scramble ensues during 55 plus hockey league action on Friday, Oct. 23 at the A.J. La Rue Arena in Haliburton. Team Black defeated Red 5-2. The league has close to 50 players with participants from age 55 to nearly 70. See more photos on page 15. /DARREN LUM Staff

Fleming residence planned for Glebe Park

SUE TIFFIN
Staff Reporter

A long-talked-about student residence for Haliburton's Fleming College could be making its home in Glebe Park.

In a council meeting held virtually on Oct. 26, Maureen Adamson, Fleming College president; Sandra Dupret, vice-president, student experience; and Susan Conner, co-chief executive officer of Prism Partners Inc. made a delegation to Dysart et al council regarding the plan.

Upon introducing the delegation, Mayor Andrea Roberts noted that Dysart council had been speaking with the college since last January, "to help find a piece of property that is suitable for a student residence." The talks had been held in closed sessions, with no resolutions or decisions made, according to Roberts, and in a closed session of the Glebe Park committee, meaning the introduction of the Glebe Park location at the Oct. 26 council meeting was the first time the general public was hearing about it.

"We've long known that a residence is needed in this community for the college to grow

see COLLEGE page 2

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College takes the lead on new residence

from page 1

and expand, housing is limited and people sadly are not able to partake in some of the courses they currently have because of lack of housing, and also the fact that the college can't grow and offer more courses," said Roberts. "So that has been a need that has been identified for many, many years. But ... the difference is that we actually have the college taking the lead on this and not waiting for someone else to provide their residence here."

Adamson, president of Fleming College, thanked Roberts for her leadership, saying, "you and your team have been awesome."

"We really appreciate all of the potential opportunity here that is here in front of us," she said. "We're very pleased to be talking about the property adjacent to the campus within the Glebe Park so the college can proceed with a new residence. This is part of our strategic plan that's been in place, we're in the second year of our strategic plan and interestingly enough we have not wavered from that even though COVID has given us a few blows along the way. A residence in Haliburton is still very, very much important to us and we really hope that it will achieve more than just expanding programming for Fleming but it will also be a thriving economic vehicle for the local community."

Adamson said Fleming had assembled a team to look at programming, design and engineering studies, and said that while the size and footprint of the facility is yet to be determined, the college is looking at a residence with 80 to 100 suites, with "the appropriate amenities there."

"And we also are very much interested in ensuring that we have the right kind of ancillary programming that the community would want to have there," said Adamson. "And in this regard obviously we want to work with you, Mayor Roberts, and planning staff, and Glebe Park, the museum committee and others, whomever we need to work with and talk to so that this is truly a collaborative effort."

Adamson also said the college was involved with the Haliburton County Development Corporation, who she said continued "to be supportive of us and helping us move this project along, and are preliminarily pleased with the thoughts of the location that is certainly being discussed right now."

Previously, planner/surveyor/engineer Greg Bishop had approached council in November 2018 with plans to construct student housing off of College Drive, near Glebe Park, for the campus. The project was expected to cost between $5 million and $7 million. He said at that time he'd been in talks with the college for a couple of years regarding the project. In August last year, HCDC received $50,000 for development studies on creating a student residence building in the community through the province's Rural Economic Development program administered through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Patti Tallman, at HCDC, told the *Echo* the college had gotten more involved in and was prepared to lead the project, "so we just transferred the contract we had with Greg over to Fleming College. Basically the elements of the project are exactly the same, and the costs associated with what were originally in the plan are exactly the same so nothing has really changed it's just a transition to the college ... The nice thing was that [Greg] was able to get it moving forward and he had that opportunity to do so which is fabulous, and now the college has sort of taken it to that next level."

Tallman echoed Adamson's remarks about HCDC's enthusiasm for the student residence project.

"We're more than happy," she said. "We're leading the RED contract, we're more than happy to work with the college, and it was a great relationship working with Greg ... We're really excited to put this project, moving forward, and put it to fruition."

Adamson said a "kick-off meeting" with Dysart et al's director of planning was planned for the afternoon of Oct. 29.

"I'm really here to say we're excited, thank you, and we're hoping to move this along," said Adamson.

She also made mention of the need to think about a memorandum of understanding.

"Maybe preliminary at this meeting but I think might be prudent in the future if we're going to continue and ensure that everybody has an appropriate fingerprint on this exciting opportunity," she said.

Roberts reiterated that this was the first time the public was hearing about the plan, but that Dysart council had been discussing it in closed session. She told the *Echo* two other properties were initially looked at, one private and one owned by the municipality, but the preferred location by council and the college was the Glebe Park property.

Representatives from Fleming College made a delegation to Dysart council on Oct. 26 via a meeting broadcast using Zoom and YouTube. The delegation brought forth the first open discussion about a planned student residence to be built at Glebe Park./ Screenshot

"We've looked at alternate property, Dysart doesn't own very much land, and all of council is very sensitive to the value of Glebe Park, and public access that it has," said Roberts. She said that preemptively, Glebe Park committee – which includes representatives from the Nordic ski club, the snowmobile club, the college, the museum and local neighbourhoods – had been consulted, and the idea had been "positively and unanimously well-received."

Though the exact location planned for the residence was not presented during the meeting, Roberts said the proposal was to move the lot lines where the existing large, main parking lot is toward the heritage buildings of the museum. The Nordic ski club building would need to be removed and replaced elsewhere in the park. One ski trail would need to be slightly modified, but not eliminated. Road access would still be on College Drive, and the director of public works had been looking into hooking into the sewer system at the same place the college was already hooking into. Roberts told the *Echo*, "the land will be merged with the college property, they will own it, so technically making what they have simply a bit larger to accommodate the building any additional parking needed." She also noted council knows they will need to accommodate both the location of the Nordic ski garage and the one ski trail.

"Because of the nature of closed session meetings, I really appreciate the members of the public that sit on the Glebe Park committee that couldn't share it fully with the Nordic association," said Roberts. "I'm sure there will be lots of questions that the public have, but we preemptively looked at all the impacts it would have to the public."

Councillor Nancy Wood-Roberts asked about moving the lot lines.

"Would that be done prior to any plans or site plans or anything like that, and if the project were to not be completed, would the lot lines stay as it is now?"

Roberts said she believed the project would be completed, noting the college "is well on their way."

"I think that is something that we want to have in a [memorandum of understanding]," said Adamson. "That land, if you're moving the lot line it is for one single purpose, and that is a residence for Fleming, and you might want to hold our feet to the fire around timing as well, for a little bit so that it doesn't drag on forever."

Councillor Larry Clark was in favour of the project.

"I think the location of a student residence in that particular piece of land is just excellent, with the Glebe Park and the skiing... It will inspire your students, it should be excellent. It's a great, great solution."

Deputy Mayor Patrick Kennedy noted that "things have moved very quickly over the last few months," and, acknowledging he might be rushing things, asked if there was "any anticipation of when you may do a groundbreaking?"

"Listen, if we can get this thing going, it's a priority so you know, these projects take three years anyway, but it's not a complicated build, so certainly we want it to happen as soon as possible," said Adamson. "I know that's wishy-washy, Deputy Mayor, I'm sorry."

> ***"A residence in Haliburton is still very, very much important to us and we really hope that it will achieve more than just expanding programming for Fleming but it will also be a thriving economic vehicle for the local community.***
>
> — Maureen Adamson

Conner added that the Fleming team would have greater clarity after the session with Dysart et al planner Jeff Iles in terms of what is required for the rezoning and/or site plan application, and the timing involved to work through those applications.

Again, Roberts noted the public would have questions about the presentation made on Tuesday.

"I'm really excited we were able to come out of closed and have this resolution in open because it is public property," she said. "Believe me I was not sitting in this chair or even in this room when the college was going in, but I did live in the neighbourhood adjacent and there were concerns when the college went in there. I think anyone can attest now to what a fabulous addition that has been to our community, to Glebe Park, with the Sculpture Forest, and all of that, the college has been a great neighbour."

Roberts made note of the Great Hall in the Haliburton School of Art + Design, and the architecture of the building itself.

"...there's a lot of pluses, and there was nervousness around at that time and I'm hoping through this public process, putting it out into the public now, that there won't be a nervousness," she said. "We really have, as a council, working with the college, addressed all the needs that we are foreseeing that you the public might be concerned about if you're listening to this. I really hope, I think this is going to be a great addition to our community. We will keep the public informed at every step along the way."

Council voted to support, in principle, a change of property line in Glebe Park to accommodate the student residence building, supporting the project and the moving of the lot line.

"This is a very exciting day for Dysart," said Roberts.

Later she told the *Echo*, "It was wonderful to share some good news. COVID-19 has dominated every aspect of our lives, and at times has felt overwhelming. We will get through it though. The college knows this and wants to plan for growth for the Haliburton campus. We are thrilled to see this project go forward and know it will be a great addition to our community. An added bonus is that this will free up rental properties for others who so desperately need them."

First 'octomester' shows strong achievement rate for students

JENN WATT

Editor

Most secondary school students enrolled in classes in Trillium Lakelands District School Board received class credits at the end of their first "octoblock" or "octomester" – the schedule employed this year where students take only one class at a time, studying the subject for the full school day.

Katherine MacIver, superintendent of learning, reported to the board of trustees on Tuesday, Oct. 27 that the credit accumulation rate in the first octoblock was 98 per cent.

"We had 4,313 credits and only 86 of those credits were not awarded," she told the trustees.

Of those who completed their credits, 58 per cent received marks between 80 to 100 per cent; one-fifth of students received grades between 70 and 79 per cent.

The semester has been broken up into octomesters of 22 days each to make it easier to keep students with their cohorts and to limit the amount of mixing that happens in schools – something that could lessen the risk of coronavirus spread.

To give trustees a sense of how the new system worked, a few teachers were invited to present on what the first month and a half back at school was like.

Kim Williams, principal of Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School, thanked the teachers for the work they had done in tackling the challenges this fall.

"There is no doubt that the pandemic has set us back in time and has caused a lot of changes in our personal and our work experiences," Williams said. "... there are always silver linings in every struggle that we overcome."

Teachers from BMLSS and Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute described an octomester that both allowed for intense study, and also one that could be difficult to plan for. It didn't seem there was enough time to teach everything in the curriculum before Oct. 16 and if a student was absent, it meant they were very far behind their peers. On the other hand, the concentrated time often meant less stopping and starting, using time more efficiently.

Video recordings of student feedback was also played for trustees.

"I like during the octomester we focused on one subject for 22 days rather than having to go through and do four subjects for the whole semester. It really helps focus on a single thing and you get a lot more work done in that time," one student said.

"I just feel like there's a lot more pressure put on students because there is no time for mistakes, like you have to get everything done within this time period," another said.

Fewer opportunities to socialize were available, one student said, and different cohorts have different lunch breaks. "So there's just like a lot less of a social aspect and ... I like to socialize," the student said.

Another student said he wished there were more mask breaks during the day. He said that Google Classroom online had worked well when he had to stay home sick (the policy is that students exhibiting a set list of symptoms, which can also indicate a cold or flu, must stay home until they are tested for COVID-19).

One student reported that he anticipated his fellow students breaking rules and not observing physical distancing recommendations, but he was pleasantly surprised to find that students were doing what was asked of them.

Asked by trustees about truancy and misbehaviour, those presenting said they hadn't seen much.

> *It really helps focus on a single thing and you get a lot more work done in that time.*
>
> — TLDSB student

Feed All Four fund in the works

Noting the pandemic has presented financial hardship for many families within the school board, director of education Wes Hahn told the trustees about a Feed All Four fundraising campaign in the works.

Feed All Four, a concept created by TLDSB, is a blend of the Indigenous medicine wheel and Maslow's hierarchy of needs, emphasizing the importance of "feeding" the mind, body, spirit and emotions to create a sense of well being and happiness.

"What we've done is we've decided to put together an educational community collaborative effort through a Feed All Four fund that will look at really going out to our educational community for donations … that can be used to support our community," Hahn said.

Employees at TLDSB will be asked to donate funds during the six-to-eight-week campaign and administrators will identify families in need.

"It's the perfect time of year," Hahn said. "It certainly aligns with our TLDSB 'Together We're Better' [motto]..."

Trustee Gary Brohman, representing Haliburton County, asked whether those donating could designate funds for specific areas. Hahn said the funds will all go into one pot and be distributed based on identified need.

Warden election process goes virtual

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Like council meetings themselves, amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the election of the Haliburton County warden for 2021 will take place virtually.

Each year, the eight members of county council, who are the mayors and deputy mayors of each of the county's lower-tier, vote from among themselves who will serve as county warden – the head of county council – for the upcoming year. Traditionally, this process takes place during an inaugural meeting in December.

Since the spring, Haliburton County council, along with the councils of its four lower-tier townships, has been holding meetings virtually, with members participating remotely via online conferencing app Zoom, proceedings broadcast to the public on YouTube.

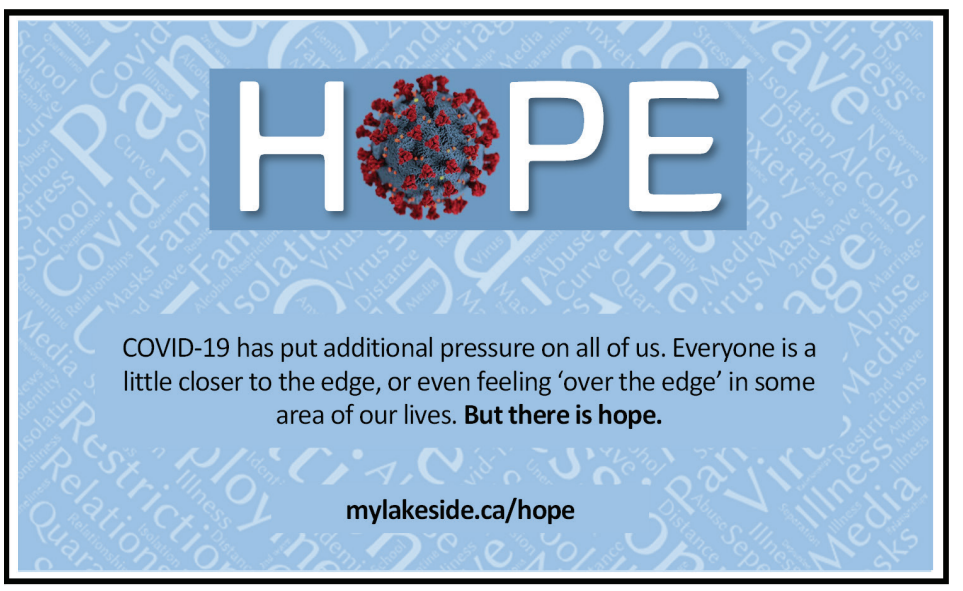
During an Oct. 28 meeting, chief administrative officer Mike Rutter presented a report with options on how county council would like to proceed with the election of the 2021 warden amid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Normally, nominations are done with interested councillors filling out nomination forms, those forms being signed by a mover and seconder. Since it won't be possible to obtain signatures from movers and seconders as council continues to meet remotely, nomination forms and emails of support are to be sent to Rutter by Nov. 13. Emails with nomination forms were being sent to members of council following last week's meeting.

Should an election be required – often the warden position is acclaimed for the year – Rutter's report offered two options. One was a virtual election that could take place either during the inaugural meeting, or with members submitting virtual ballots once they have received them any time before the inaugural. The second was a more traditional process, where staff would arrange times to meet councillors who would place paper ballots in a box, with that box to be opened during the inaugural meeting.

Ultimately councillors decided to vote virtually, but prior to the meeting, lest any technical glitches interrupt the process. Online council meetings have frequently been subject to internet connectivity problems.

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen has served as warden for the past two years.



Funding for assessment centre may fall short of expenses

from page 1

HHHS has now shifted that operation fully into the trailer that has been on-site at the assessment centre for operation during the winter months, alongside the clinic within the Haliburton Family Medical Centre building for those who are symptomatic or moderately symptomatic to be further assessed when they come in for their testing. HHHS has been paying a rental fee for the tent and trailer since the beginning of April.

"We have certainly had to fund a number of different elements of that centre including the trailer rental, the tent rental up to the present time, and we've provided staffing in-kind and there's been some staffing expenses as well," said Plummer. "So there's some significant costs associated with running that centre and at this point the province has been talking about a funding model that was to be effective as of the first of October. We do not yet have confirmation of funding for our assessment centre, but the funding model that's been shared with us suggests that they will be paying the assessment centre an equivalent of $38/swab, with a minimum swab number of 200 swabs per week. So if we have under 200 swabs a week we're supposed to be guaranteed the equivalent funding for 200 swabs per week."

"Even with that," Plummer said, "that amount is not going to be sufficient to cover our current operating costs for the centre, and right now we are also experiencing increased costs with the modifications we've had to make to the trailer and some of the changes we've had to make to get us through the winter."

Additionally, the HHHS team is facing a proposed rental payment for the use of the parking lot, which is owned by the municipality, as the site for the assessment centre.

"So that's going to be adding to our ongoing operating costs at a time when we're really not even certain whether we're going to be able to get sufficient funding from the province to cover those," said Plummer.

Board member Irene Odell questioned the situation.

"...I'm kind of surprised, because this is a service to our community," she said. "We've been very lucky that our numbers are low, and when people do get it they can get testing very quickly. Where would they have to go if this has to shut down because we can't afford to keep it up and running?"

Plummer said to her knowledge there are testing sites in Bancroft, Lindsay, Peterborough and Bracebridge.

"It's quite a travel for folks, especially coming into the winter months," she said.

"How far have you escalated this within Dysart?" asked Odell. "I would think council would want to weigh in on this a bit."

"We have been discussing with the mayor, she's been attending our assessment centre team meetings, and so she's certainly aware of the circumstances that we're facing right now," said Plummer.

"It's disappointing," said Odell.

Plummer would not disclose the amount of rent being proposed, but said the HHHS team was waiting on confirmation from Ontario Health East to see what would be paid and what wouldn't.

David O'Brien, treasurer and finance committee chair, joined with fellow board member Irene Odell saying that HHHS should be receiving more financial assistance for its COVID-19 assessment centre. /Screenshot

After the meeting, she told the *Echo* via email: "The rental fees for the trailer and the tent were built into the initial cost estimate we included when we submitted an application to Ontario Health to have an assessment centre in Haliburton; since [we] did receive approval to open our centre, we believe these costs will be covered. In addition to the initial cost estimate, each organization involved with the operation of the assessment centre has been contributing in-kind resources to keep it running and to ensure our community has local access to this critical service. The proposed rental fee for use of the parking lot is a new fee, so we are concerned that it may not be covered. We do appreciate that we have been able to use the parking lot to date without paying rent."

The location of the assessment centre was deemed to be convenient for residents as well as HHHS staff. Plummer said team members had looked at alternative spaces for where the centre might move for the winter months.

"And it became very evident, very quickly, how important it is to have the centre close to the other health services," she said. The family medical centre beside the hospital, and the assessment centre in that area allows for a two-pronged assessment centre approach, Plummer said, with the symptomatic clinic indoors and the rest of the centre happening outside in the trailer enables the team to keep "those two populations apart, but having really easy and quick access to the medical centre and to the emergency department if we need it, if someone shows up with really severe symptoms and is in rough shape."

"It is disappointing because it is such a good service for the community," said Odell, asking how the board might support Plummer and the HHHS team.

Board member David O'Brien supported Odell's comments.

"We are fighting COVID as a community, and we're doing it as a whole community and we're doing it together as a community," he said. "Really, to think you should have to charge us to do that service for our community, absolutely ridiculous, in my mind."

Plummer noted the rental fee proposed includes the cost to cover hydro, which she said she thought was fair.

"Hydro is quite acceptable, I agree, and that's where it should stop," said O'Brien.

A meeting with Ontario Health East is booked this week, Plummer said, to talk about the funding challenges HHHS has been having with the centre under the proposed model.

"They have said they're going to help help centres that can't cover their operating costs, but we just don't know exactly what that means or what it will look like yet," she said. "Hopefully it'll be good news and we won't have to worry about this."

Additional financial update

Plummer spoke to significant incremental costs HHHS, alongside all other hospitals in the province, have had in response to putting precautions in place due to the pandemic.

"We have been reimbursed for those for the months of March and April, for any of those costs that are reimbursable, but we have only received March and April and nothing since then and the costs are fairly significant, they're over $350,000 a month being spent just on COVID alone, and so it's really challenging to continue," said Plummer. "It's really creating some cash flow challenges for us. At the moment, we did recently receive that funding reimbursement for March and April and we're OK for now but it won't take long, just a matter of weeks, before we're back in a crunch again. We're really hoping that the government continues with its reimbursements."

Plummer said HHHS has been "actively advocating" for those reimbursements to be made "sooner rather than later," as have other hospitals across the province.

"We're continuing to push on that front," she said.

HHHS has also lost revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, an amount that totals more than $350,000.

"Unfortunately the government has indicated that lost revenue is not a recoverable expense for COVID-19," said Plummer, noting that the loss is creating a significant deficit in the current year operations and that advocacy work was underway "for funding for these cost pressures."

Grateful for grant, disappointed in amount

While Haliburton Highlands Health Services will receive $22,000 through the province's Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund Exceptional Circumstances Program Grant to help replace air-conditioning units at the Haliburton site, Plummer said HHHS had applied for $1.5 million worth of upgrades, so though she is grateful for the funding, it falls short of what is needed.

"We had applied for $1.5 million worth of upgrades that need to happen urgently and received $22,000 so we were rather disappointed with that outcome to say the least, and again we are advocating for some policy changes to that funding model in order to help organizations such as ours to be able to have a good solid funding plan for keeping our infrastructure up to date," she said.

These items included laundry equipment replacement at both sites, boiler replacement at both sites, lighting upgrades at the Haliburton site and ventilation duct replacement at the Minden site, according to Plummer's report.

"We have found a way to proceed with some of those more urgent issues that need addressing, so we are continuing ahead despite the lack of funding and we're continuing to advocate and hopefully we'll get those expenses covered," she said.

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New Cases Reported Today

1	0	1
Haliburton	KawarthaLakes	Northumberland

Total Confirmed Cases to Date

20	185	50	255
Haliburton (HAL)	Kawartha Lakes (CKL)	Northumberland (NTH)	HKPRDHU

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County

County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
Haliburton	1	19	4	0	1	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	0	166	4	0	11	19	13
Northumberland	3	46	6	0	3	1	0

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, HKPRDHU

All Counties	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
HKPRDHU	4	231	14	0	15	20	13

One new confirmed case of COVID-19 as well as four current high-risk contacts were reported in Haliburton County by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit on Nov. 2. Previously, 19 cases reported in Haliburton County have been listed as resolved. A new confirmed case was also reported in Northumberland./ Screenshot from HKPRDHU website

HHHS prepares for province's second wave

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer shared with the board challenges the corporation is facing regarding the second wave of COVID-19 during their meeting Oct. 29. / Screenshot

While confirmed cases of COVID-19 have remained low in Haliburton County, with 19 cases having been reported resolved since the pandemic was declared in March, Haliburton Highlands Healthcare Services teams have been working on pandemic response strategies on a daily basis, and planning for potential increases in community prevalence, surges and outbreaks as record numbers of infection are announced daily, according to a report from HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer, which she presented at a board meeting held virtually on Oct. 29.

"We're right in the middle of what seems to be a growing second wave, although hopefully things are levelling off, we have been seeing record-high numbers of new COVID cases across the province, as everyone I'm sure is aware, over the past few days," said Plummer.

As the second wave of the pandemic in Ontario sees rising cases of COVID-19 across the province, HHHS has several increasing concerns.

"The first being hospital capacity, with the increasing number of hospitalizations related to COVID over the last few days, and weeks, we're starting to see some hospital capacity issues across the province and a little bit regionally, but not in crisis situation quite yet here. We've also been seeing increases in ICU admissions across the province. This is happening particularly in the hospitals in the hotspot areas, but it does have the potential to have a ripple effect out to some of the more regional hospitals, and the ripple effects even to our hospitals. So we are continuing to monitor the situation every day and plan for potential surges in patient volumes as well as the potential for an increase in our community prevalence of cases here, and the effect that might have on our hospital services as well as our staff and our ability to staff the hospital."

Plummer said one of the concerns was the possibility that, as hospitals were dealing with outbreaks in several hospitals in the Greater Toronto Area as well as the potential for flu season causing surges in hospital capacity, elective surgeries and other procedures might be paused again as they had been earlier in the first part of the pandemic.

"Hopefully that won't happen but it's certainly a risk as we see a rise in those hospital capacity numbers," she said.

The other major concern for HHHS is related to the growing number of COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care facilities.

"We have seen an increase in the number of long-term care homes provincially that have gone into outbreak, most of them in the hotspot areas, but still very concerning that that is still happening," said Plummer. "We've been of course maintaining strict vigilance with all of the precautions we've put into place to try to ensure we keep folks as safe as we can possibly keep them here at HHHS. But it is a concern for us."

In her report, Plummer noted the "province is continuing to rely on hospitals to provide Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) support for LTC homes, and hospitals are continuing to provide staffing and other resources to homes that are experiencing shortages as a result of outbreaks."

"One of the biggest concerns we have in relation to that is that some of the hotspot areas, when they get into staffing crisis, are relying on hospitals to provide staffing for long-term care homes," Plummer said during the board meeting.

"At least one of our regional partner hospitals has had to send staff out to a couple of the LTC homes in hotspot areas to help with their staffing crises. As we see our regional partners do that, that raises concerns about their ability to help out at our organization if we were to run into a staffing crisis. Again, we're watching that very closely. Our partners are aware of our situation as a small hospital. We have had great success recruiting people over the last several months however we are still in a situation where it wouldn't take much for us to move into a staffing crisis if we were to see an outbreak locally."

She noted that HHHS teams were working on planning strategy and reprising plans, adding that it "seems like pretty much every day there's a revision to our plans."

Long-term care facilities remain COVID-free

HHHS staff continues to closely monitor the second wave of COVID-19 and evaluate the various safety measures put in place to keep long-term care residents, staff and visitors safe.

"We continue to have ongoing concerns about the rising number of long-term care home outbreaks in the province, and the possibility of an outbreak locally," said Plummer in her report. "If an outbreak was to occur, our rural location puts us in a vulnerable position due to our limited staff availability and limited external resources upon which to rely for help."

Locally, HHHS manages Hyland Crest in Minden, and Highland Wood in Haliburton.

"The concerns that we have around what we're seeing in the province with the increased cases in long-term care and the increased number of outbreaks has prompted us to tighten up some of the visiting policies that we had put into place when the province opened visiting back up to long-term care [facilities]," said Plummer. "We have put a few additional restrictions in, just knowing that, because of our small size and our small number of staff, and the challenge of not really having easy access to back-up staffing given the current situation regionally, we have tightened up some of the restrictions."

With the exception of certain compassionate care situations and essential caregiver visiting, all indoor visits will be restricted to a designated space outside of each LTC home, near the main entrance to each facility, reads the CEO report. Residents may have up to two visitors at a time in the designated area; visitors must attest to having a negative COVID-19 swab within the past 14 days, and they must wear a surgical mask provided by the home during their visit. Alternative methods of visiting via Skype and FaceTime are available.

Essential caregivers are still permitted to enter the home, Plummer said, but they're restricted to visits with their loved one inside of the resident's room and not out in the common areas.

One of the biggest risks identified was residents leaving the home's property for a short stay or temporary absence, reads Plummer's report. Requests for these absences must be submitted and approved by the home. Residents taking short-term absences for social and other reasons that don't include an overnight stay, must be actively screened but are not required to be tested or self-isolate, while those absent for one or more nights must be actively screened and self-isolate for 14 days. Residents who leave for medical reasons do not require testing or self-isolation upon their return, with additional steps for the facility to follow upon their return if the resident is admitted to hospital. Individuals accompanying residents are instructed to comply with provincial guidelines regarding social circles, hygiene and PPE, but the ministry does not currently require them to attest to having a negative COVID-19 swab within the past 14 days.

"We are committed to keeping our residents safe, and are actively advocating our concerns to the Ministry of Long Term Care," said Plummer in her report. "In order to protect our vulnerable residents, even before a large prevalence of COVID-19 is seen in our community, we have been working closely with the Ministry and with Public Health, and are taking proactive actions to reduce the risk of our residents and staff contracting COVID-19."

Similar to other long-term care facilities throughout the province, HHHS staff are tested for COVID-19 every two weeks.

Haliburton County holding steady at 19 cases

Plummer told the board there had been "a little bit of a spike," over the month since the last meeting, with an additional four cases added in the county.

"Percentage wise it's a bit of an increase but number wise the cases here do remain low," she said.

Her report noted the importance of remaining vigilant in part due to the concerns faced by the HHHS teams.

"All of what's going on in the rest of the province is a huge reminder for everyone I think that, exhausted as we all may be and as frustrated as we all may be, with all of the precautions and the way that life has changed, we do still need to maintain that vigilance in order to get through," she told board members. "Lots of people talk about this being like a marathon, we were quick out of the gate at the beginning but we've reached that wall part-way through the marathon where we're getting tired, and we have to work through that tiredness and keep on going to reach the finish line, and I think that's a good metaphor for how things feel right now."

points of view

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Shoreline serenity by Darren Lum

Health costs

Editorial

jenn watt

SINCE MARCH we've been relying on our health-care professionals to be there for our community as we confronted the new public health threat of COVID-19. We expected that they would do the work to learn about the virus, organize themselves and their facilities to prepare for an onslaught of sick patients and to limit any spread, and to keep the population as safe as possible. We've expected them to work in unnerving conditions, adding layers of protective gear, always on alert – always on the frontline.

And they have done that: month after month after month. Most of us are well aware of what the doctors and nurses, personal support workers and administrative staff have been doing. We've seen the white assessment centre tent erected in the parking lot of the medical centre in Haliburton and many of us took advantage of their drive-through flu shot clinic in October.

Disappointingly, as our health-care professionals have stepped up to meet the challenge, the Haliburton Highlands Health Services corporation has been footing much of the bill. Compensation for the increased costs has trickled in from the province, so far only for the months of March and April, and lost revenues amounting to some $350,000 are not considered a "recoverable expense."

As a result, HHHS has found itself in a tight financial position, as have hospitals around the province. Last week, the president of the Ontario Hospital Association told the media "the hospital sector is facing unprecedented, truly unprecedented, financial pressures" and that if promised funding does not flow to Ontario hospitals soon, some may find it hard to make payroll.

That possibility was not broached during the HHHS meeting last week, but CEO Carolyn Plummer did express concern over cash flow, saying that the money from March and April wouldn't last for long.

As hospitals advocate at a provincial level for additional funding, on a local level help could come from the Municipality of Dysart et al, which owns the parking lot where the COVID-19 assessment centre is located. The municipality is proposing to begin charging HHHS rent for the space and although the exact amount was not disclosed during the meeting, any break that could be provided to HHHS would surely benefit the whole community.

Waiving rental fees isn't going to solve HHHS's financial problems, but it would certainly be a welcome gesture, and one less worry for our health-care professionals who have given us so much.

Happy (as hell), part 1

Green meadow

Tales from the great

lynda shadbolt

HOW ARE YOU DOING? How is your spirit in this first week of November? If you are anything like me, you have moments of worry, doubt, feeling disconnected, fear, grief, loneliness, anger, sadness and more. These feelings are all real, and at the same time they don't have to last or be who you are forever. There are things you can do.

For me, when these feelings show up I take a deep breath and practice being present. I pay attention to my senses and I listen, smell, touch, observe and take some more breaths. I put my phone down, or turn off my TV and I do something like watch the birds or look out the window. I just pay attention to what is around me in that moment. And I try to do things that inspire me. I have always written these articles as a practice to "capture stories" about good things that are happening around me in my family, with my friends, in the community and even in the world. I look for goodness, I notice it, I jot a few notes down and sometimes the ideas end up in the paper. It is a practice of directing my attention to something helpful.

Here is an example of my process. Last night, my husband and I went to Abbey Gardens for a Halloween concert put on by the Haliburton Folk Society. I know when I buy the tickets that I will capture lots of great stories in the evening. And I did.

First, Thom Lambert does an opening set. He plays all of his original music, some from his COVID series, and others from other times. He is singing his way through COVID with his guitar and a glass of scotch. Second, Suzie Vinnick gets up on stage and she is a bright and powerful presence. Her opening song, "Happy as Hell," makes me smile and feel alive and I am tapping my foot from the beginning to the end. With only 20 people in the audience, it is a privilege and I am so thankful for the folk society. Third, Suzie is singing a song about how we/she loves chocolate and Oreo cookies and of course I could relate in an instant! Chocolate is definitely part of my well being. I am enjoying the song when my friend pulls out a delicious El Camino chocolate bar and shares it with the three of us sitting with her. A small act of kindness, a big impact on the heart. It's these little things that make a good life. Fourth, before we left for the concert, good friends dropped by our house with homemade Halloween cookies as a treat for Jim and I. Made my heart grow 10 times that she made the cookies, they delivered them with love and I'm eating one as I write this article! And finally, the full moon. When we got home from the concert I took Billie, the best dog ever (lots of stories there), out for a little walk and we stood under the full moon and just took in its bright light and its space in the sky. Just looking at the moon shifts my attention.

Everyone, of all ages, can catch good stories simply by paying attention and capturing them. In these moments when I am present, I am happy as hell! I invite you to start to pay attention and capture your own stories, perhaps in a journal, a sticky note on the fridge, or by telling someone. What are the good stories you have to tell? Stay tuned for Happy (as hell), Part 2.

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points of view

Just call me Tubby

steve galea

Loon Tales

"STEVE," JENN BEGAN. "You've got a problem."

I looked at her, put down the three storage tubs I had just purchased, and said, "I can quit any time."

"Then take those storage containers back to where you bought them," she answered.

"OK, I will," I replied.

But, deep down, we both knew I could not.

For, like most men who indulge in a little storage tub use on the weekends, I fooled myself into thinking it was merely recreational and that my habit was not harming anyone.

So, I picked up my new containers and went down to the basement to enjoy them in peace.

After a while, she stepped into the room, put her hand on my shoulder, and softly whispered, "You don't even have a use for them, do you?"

"Actually," I said, perhaps a little too defensively, "I do."

I told her I was going to use the big container to store my bowhunting clothes in, the medium one to store my ice fishing gear, and the small one to store all my duck and goose calls.

"That way, I'll know exactly where they are," I added. "It's called being organized."

She walked over to the wall where my vast collection of storage tubs were stacked and put her finger on the label of one.

"Look. You already store your bowhunting clothes in that one," she crowed.

She then pointed to another one. "And this label says it holds all your ice fishing gear."

"Yes, but…"

"And wonder of wonders," she said, as she opened a smaller tub. "Here's where you keep your duck calls."

Then, she left.

Suddenly I found myself facing every man's worst fear – she was right and I was wrong.

That's when I realized my habit was harming someone.

"How did I become addicted to storage containers," I lamented.

In retrospect, it started so innocently.

I needed a durable container to keep my fly-tying material in. And though I had heard about how addictive these containers were, I thought I could handle it.

"What harm is one little Rubbermaid container going to do?" I asked myself naively.

By the week's end I had nine.

You're probably wondering what is so addictive about storage tubs? Well the answer is simple. The average fellow buys storage tubs to organize his stuff. But eventually, and mostly because of illegible handwriting on the labels, he finds himself not knowing which storage tub holds the very things he organized. So he opens each one, looking for it. And as he is doing so, finds the item he needed last week.

But he also soon discovers that every time he opens a container it is a bit like unwrapping a Christmas present – except none of them hold ties or socks. And that's the kind of high that's hard to let go of.

So you start chasing the dragon – which is somewhere in a box labelled "Decorations from my bachelor days."

Soon you fool yourself into thinking that if you just had just one more storage tub you could separate your duck hunting camouflage from your bow hunting camouflage, and you could quit.

So, you buy another tub and organize further. Until, one day you wake up and realize you have one tub for hunting hats, one for hunting pants, one for hunting coats, one for the rifle season, one for fly fishing, one for camping gear, one for duck calls, one for squirrel calls, one for maps, compasses and GPS units, one for deer calls, one for deer hunting scents, one for cover scents and so on. And, you spend endless hours looking through each, not because you want to, but rather because you have to – because somewhere in one of those tubs is your car keys.

But I digress. A little while later, Jenn sauntered downstairs with a smug look on her face.

"Well," she said. "Are you taking them back?"

"No," I announced. "I found a use for all three."

"Oh," she said.

And I had too. The large tub would hold the medium tub and the medium tub would hold the small tub. And the small tub held my car keys – which is something I only discovered after a good long search.

pic *of the* past

This photo comes from the album of Doreen Rae and says on the back: "We still have the name Deanville today. Early 1900. Family Fred, Mark, Jim, George Dean, Annie Dean "Iles", Great Gramma Dean, Emma Dean "Roberts".

letters to the editor

Big deal about tiny homes

To the Editor,

Tiny homes have become a hot topic lately and rightly so. People simply can't afford the big monster homes that have been popping up over the last several years.

While a lot cheaper they are also better for the environment by using less materials and by consuming less energy.

The province has set a minimum square footage but for some reason our municipalities don't seem to want to accept the provincial standard and want to impose their own minimums.

What we really need is for our elected council members to get off their high horse and allow homes that simply meet the building code. Really, who are you to tell someone how big their house is to be? They seem to have no trouble allowing larger homes.

Some of the councillors' comments that were presented in the recent *Echo* article are laughable. Too many storage units will emerge? Give me a break.

Dan Malloy

Low–cost training programs available through chamber of commerce

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is offering online training programs to their membership and the wider community that promote safe, healthy workplaces.

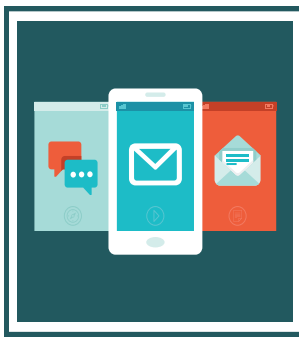
Occupational health and safety training including general WHMIS, personal protective equipment awareness, fire safety and COVID-19 safety are available. Training on creating a respectful, inclusive workplace includes LGBT+ diversity and inclusion for workplaces, diversity and inclusion for volunteer organizations, Indigenous culture training, and unconscious bias in the workplace.

Chamber members get 25 per cent off the cost of the programs, which the chamber says are affordably priced. Participants receive a chamber-branded certificate upon completion of the course. Additional discounts for high volume employers may be available.

"The board recognized this as a need in our community, based on current events," Andrea Strano, president of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce said.

Find out more at haliburtonchamber.com.

Staff



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to

jenn@haliburtonpress.com

Eco Explorers dress up

Ponies and volunteers got a costume parade on Wednesday as the Abbey Gardens Eco Explorers came by for a visit. The Eco Explorers have been learning about wetland and ecological succession, changes to trees and woolly bear caterpillars during the last seven weeks at Abbey Gardens. The students celebrated Halloween with "turnover in your grave treats" (aka jam pockets) over the fire. /Photo courtesy of Irene Heaven

The Abbey Gardens Eco Explorers came dressed for Halloween on Wednesday, Oct. 28. /Photo courtesy of Irene Heaven

Trunk or Treat!

The first trick-or-treaters, Aaron Turner as Thanos and Emmie and Hudson as Guardians of the Galaxy arrive at Trunk or Treat in Head Lake Park on Halloween. The event is organized by Lakeside Church and included local businesses and individuals, who decorated the area around their vehicles for the visitors. /JENN WATT Staff

Trick-or-treaters make their way down the pathway between booths. / JENN WATT Staff

Three M&M's helped to create Candy Land at the park.

Trick or treaters came fully dressed up - with matching masks - to the Trunk or Treat event in Head Lake Park on Halloween.

The Trunk or Treat event made it easy for little ones to bounce from one table to the next, showing off their costumes and being rewarded with tasty candy.

Rotaract sweetens the day

Members of the Haliburton Rotaract Club were busy on Halloween preparing goodies for their pandemic-friendly initiative "Quarantrick or Treat." Customers pre-ordered their treats and had them delivered by Rotaract members. From left, Christine Carr, Joseph Quigley, Becca Anderson, Emma Becker, Scott Walling and a scary ghost who looks a little bit like Danielle Martin. There were 160 cups sold with deliveries from Kinmount to Highlands East. Funds will go to community projects. /JENN WATT Staff

The Invasive Species Centre's Early Detection and Rapid Response Network is hosting a contest to encourage residents of Ontario to get out and scrape off EGM egg masses from their trees./ Submitted by the Invasive Species Centre

European gypsy moth egg scraping contest aims to slow invasive species

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

In June 2018, someone participating in the Queen Elizabeth II Bioblitz took a photo of a European gypsy moth caterpillar on a tree in the Minden area, resulting in the only positive identification in Haliburton County of the invasive species to be posted on the EDDMapS Ontario Map run by the Invading Species Awareness Program.

The Invasive Species Centre, however, knows there have likely been many more sightings of the pest in the area that haven't been reported by citizens yet. The centre's Early Detection and Rapid Response Network European Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Scraping Contest hopes to change that, enticing community members to report sightings of the egg masses on their properties and remove them in exchange for an entry into a contest for Yeti merchandise and maple coffee.

"The European gypsy moth is native to Europe and is currently established in northeastern United States and eastern Canada," reads a press release from the Invasive Species Centre, based in Sault Ste. Marie. "This insect is a significant threat to Ontario trees, and has gained widespread attention over the past year for the heavy defoliation seen across the province. The caterpillars feed on crown foliage of a wide range of hardwood and some softwood trees, which makes it a defoliating forest pest of concern."

This is the time of year, after June and prior to spring the following year, according to the Invasive Species Centre, to monitor and manage trees for European gypsy moth to help limit further infestation next year.

"We know that Eastern Ontario trees were heavily impacted this year by the pest, and there's evidence of moderate to severe defoliation from European gypsy moth in areas surrounding Kawartha Lakes and an increase in defoliation as you move east towards areas like Perth and Smiths Falls," said Lauren Bell, education and community outreach co-ordinator at the Invasive Species Centre.

"We're calling on people across Ontario to help reduce the impact of this destructive pest, right in their own backyards," reads the press release.

The egg masses are tan-coloured and can be found on tree trunks, bark, or other hard surfaces, according to the release. They are about four centimetres long and contain 100 to 1,000 eggs.

Once eggs are spotted, they should be removed with a scraper like a butter knife or paint scraper to carefully remove the masses off tree trunks, branches and outdoor equipment. After removal, the masses should be disposed of in a bucket of dish soap and water mixture, left for 48 hours in the water before disposal. Community members should wear gloves and protective glasses while scraping eggs off of trees. To enter the contest, a photo should be taken of the eggs scraped, which can be submitted with an entry form to be automatically entered into a draw to win a prize. The more eggs scraped, the more entries into the draw.

European gypsy moth egg masses on a tree. Credit: Karla Salp, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org.

"We use an application called the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System to track reports of invasive species in Canada, you can see based on the European Gypsy Moth page the current mapped distribution in Ontario, including reports in the Minden/Kawartha Lakes area," said Bell. "These maps are not a summary of all infestations by any means, but are reports sent in from community members, and therefore the more people we have reporting their sightings of this invasive species, the better understanding we have at the current distribution."

An early bird draw took place Oct. 30, and a final draw takes place on Nov. 27 at 4 p.m.

For further information visit invasivespeciescentre.ca or https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/take-action/edrr-network/european-gypsy-moth-egg-scraping-contest/.

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HOW WILL IT HAPPEN?

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Once upon a mouse, don'tcha know

Maybelle's

Fireside stories

OH, HOW I wish this was a fairy tale, dear reader, but it's not. 'Ol Maybelle is having mouse problems in my HOUSE! Or rather MICE, lots of them…immediate family, extended family, cousins. I think even their ancestors are partying here. With all the noise they make in the middle of the night… pots and pans banging…I could swear one of them is the incarnation of Gene Krupa, don'tcha know. For those of you who don't know because you're too young … he was a famous jazz drummer back in the 1930s. And did I mention scratching in the walls?

It all started three very lonnnng weeks ago in my living room. There I was watching HGTV (Home and Garden Television) – Bogart, my pet bear, sitting beside me (he has an uncanny sense for interior design, don'tcha know) – and, my good friend, Twindle Mumbly, who was hoping to find some tips on how to freshen up the look of his Lake WhaddayathinkImean store: Mumbly's Haberdashery & Taxidermy – when all of a sudden, 'ol Maybelle sees a shadow on the floor skirt around the corner of the living room to the kitchen.

"Did you see that?" I gasped.

"Maybelle, look!" Twindle said, glued to the television show. "They found asphalt in the ceiling."

"I think I saw a mouse," I said.

"I knew there was asphalt up there."

"A MOUSE, Twindle, in my HOUSE!"

"Maybelle, it's just your eyes playing tricks on you," he said, picking up his cuppa and walking up to the screen, desperately hoping I won't interrupt him again.

Well, I didn't want to argue because I just wasn't sure. Maybe, Twindle was right. Afterall, sometimes when I walk in the woods, I think what I'm seeing is a dead racoon or other wild thing until I get closer and it turns out to be a moss-covered rock or a clump of branches. But, 15 minutes later, Twindle jumps up on the settee yelling, pointing and screaming: "Mouse! Mouse!"

Well, the poor mouse was stunned. It stared at him like a deer in the headlights. And, wouldn't you know, it was sooo darn cute!

"There's never just one of them," he said, climbing down from his perch after the mouse disappeared. "And I know you, Maybelle. Just because they're cute don't go thinking they're not harmful. They can spread disease through their urine, droppings, saliva and nesting materials … and they can breed year-round with one female able to produce five to 10 litters per year."

I sank into the couch like a broken bedspring. "Oh dear," I murmured.

"Traps, Maybelle, get yourself some traps!"

I will tell you that I first bought a "live trap" hoping to catch and release them into the woods, but that didn't work… and there was mouse poop building up in my kitchen, not a healthy thing at all. So, although it made me feel terrible to have to do it, I tried several different types of regular traps … the old fashioned wooden one and three different types of plastic traps.

Well, they worked most of the time, but sometimes I'd find that a Charlie (as I call them) had moved a trap to a totally different part of the kitchen, or turned it upside down. And one day, I couldn't find a trap at all! Twindle came by and after pulling the stove away from the wall, there it was.

So, now 'ol softy Maybelle had become Maybelle the Mighty Mouse Hunter, determined to clear my house of this smarter than smart mouse…obviously a member of the Mensa Mouse Society.

Three o'clock in the morning, a noise wakes me up. Still foggy from sleep, I walk into the living room and see a Charlie in a trap behind the television screen. I am glad he is caught but still feel bad for it. I'll deal with this later, I'm going back to bed, I think. But, before I do, I walk into the kitchen and find that this same mouse had first over-turned a different type of trap.

Back in bed, trying to get some more zzzs, I can't stop thinking about Charlie.

So, I get out of bed and take another look at it. Charlie is now out of the trap, sitting beside it staring at me. I am totally beside myself! "What are you doing?" I yell. "Why can't you just pack your bags and leave? I don't want to kill you."

Now, I really don't know what to do, so I go into my bedroom and shut the door. Fifteen minutes later, I look again and the mouse is gone.

Well, I put out an S.O.S. to my pals later that morning, which was just yesterday, and was told: Buy some ultrasonic mouse sound repellent devices, that'll work. Just plug them into the wall. They'll hear a high-pitched sound that repels them, and you won't hear a thing. So, as soon as the hardware store opened that's where I was, purchasing a four-pack.

As of this writing, I'm hoping that will work. So, please keep a good thought. And, by the way, if you're one of many folks in Lake W who has Charlies in their house for the first time this year … another solution I was told: Get a cat!

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. Jerelyn's books, "Vessie Flamingo Outshining the Moon," and "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You" are available at amazon.com.

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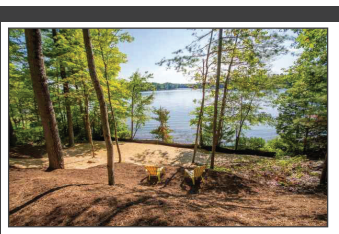
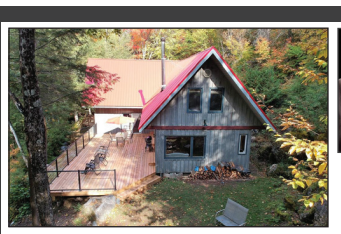
- Over 300 feet of prime Shadow Lake waterfront on 16 vacant acres
- Developed shoreline is sandy with a gradual, easy entry, Potential for severance



Adele Barry
705-457-0306

Gull Lake $549,000

- Large private waterfront lot on a premium lake
- 3.2 Acres, 240' of waterfrontage, level building site
- Hardpacked sand, shallow entry, cleaned and ready to build!



Drew Bishop**
Kristin Bishop*
457-2128 x23

Moose Lake $899,000

- Private location, 5+ acres & 325' of waterfront
- 4 bedrooms, 1 full bath & 2 half baths
- Open concept living area & 3 walkouts
- Ideal location on a 2-lake chain

Dagmar
Boettcher**
457-5968

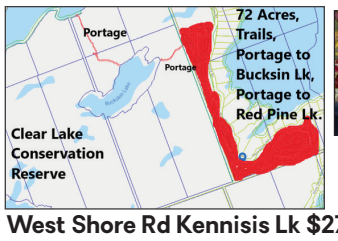
Burdock Lake

- 106 ft of clean deep shoreline great for swimming
- Motor restricted lake with fantastic fishing
- 2 bedrooms, large living room,deck facing the lake
- Private driveway lined in Hemlocks

Andy Campbell
854-0292

On The Spot Variety

- Well established main street location
- Increasing lottery commission/revenues
- Suitable for family business



Gloria
Carnochan*
754-1932

West Shore Rd Kennisis Lk $279,000

- 72 ac of forest /trails, also trail 2 Buckskin
- Portage 2 Redpine Lk, for canoe routes
- Snowmobiling, ATVing, biking, horse riding

Mark Dennys*
457-0473

Hwy Commercial Opportunity $299,900

- 666 Ft Rd Frtg, 3.4 Acr
- 868 Sq Ft Bldg, High traffic location
- Between Haliburton & Carnarvon on Hwy 118

Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 26

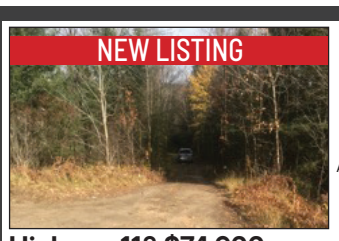
Gull River Minden $399,000

- 2 self contained 3 season cottages
- 235' of mixed shoreline, great swimming
- Just minutes to Minden or Big Gull Lake
- Excellent weekly rental income

Lindsay
Elder**
457-5878

Brady Lake $799,900

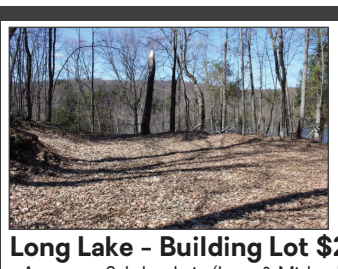
- Main house and guest cottage – both winterized
- Ultimate privacy with million dollar views!
- Over 200 feet of waterfront
- Renovations galore!



Andrew Hodgson***
286-2138 x 29

Highway 118 $74,900

- Private 6-acre parcel close to the Village of Haliburton
- Driveway installed & a partial building site cleared with 2.1-acre building envelope



Susanne James*
& Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 33

Long Lake - Building Lot $209,900

- Awesome 2-Lake chain (Long & Miskwabi)
- Driveway and building site cleared
- 110 feet of shoreline
- Elevated lot with great view, summer sunsets

David Lee*
286-2138 x 27

West Lake Building Lot $265,300

- Prime lot with a stunning view over the Lake
- Year-round township road, terrific building site
- Hydro & Bell are available at the lot line

Donna
McCallum*
455-2054

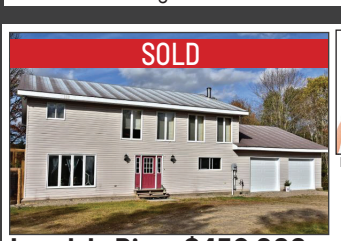
Commercial Opportunity $599,000

- Two parcels zoning 59 acres, 5 acres zoned commercial highway, 54 zoned disposal industrial
- Modern 3-bedroom, 2 bath home
- Approx.7000 sq ft of space between 2 shops

Brandon
Nimigon*
457-2128 x 27

Haliburton Village $300,000

- 2-Bedroom, 1 bath home, COMPLETELY renovated in 2020
- Right in downtown Haliburton, great starter or retirement location



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

Irondale River $459,000

- Great family home or investment property with 3000 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths
- 5+ acres of riverfront, plenty of greenspace and, year-round access

Kirsten Rae*
286-2138 x 30

Industrial Park Rd $1,200,000

- 10,000 sq ft of mixed use industrial and commercial space
- Sitting on a private 6.75 acre lot in Haliburton
- Unlimited possibilities with this fantastic building!

Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Wilberforce $469,900

- Totally renovated 3-bedroom, 2 bath home
- With a 2-story garage
- Lake access across the road.

Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

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- Evaluations based on today's market
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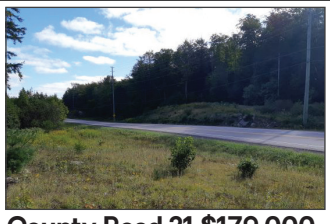
- (705) 489-9969



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 28

County Road 21 $179,000

- Acreage close to Haliburton Village & Pinestone Resort
- Beautifully Treed with driveway already installed.
- Ultimate privacy for residential use!

Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 32

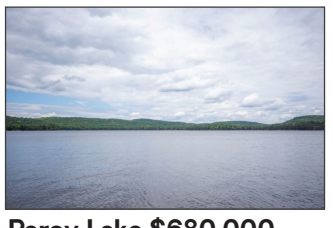
Haliburton Home $429,000

- Newer 3-bedroom, 2 bath home with good access to town & across from the rail trail
- Nicely finished, open concept living space and fully finished lower level

Tom Wilkinson**
286-2138 x 25

Minden Building Lot $169,900

- Excellent location with maximum exposure
- Commercial zoning with many possible uses
- Investment or your own business



Andrea Wilson**
457-2128 x 25

Percy Lake $680,000

- 3.9 acre building lot, 555' of waterfront
- Incredible point lot with big lake views
- Private location, driveway installed
- HST INCLUDED!

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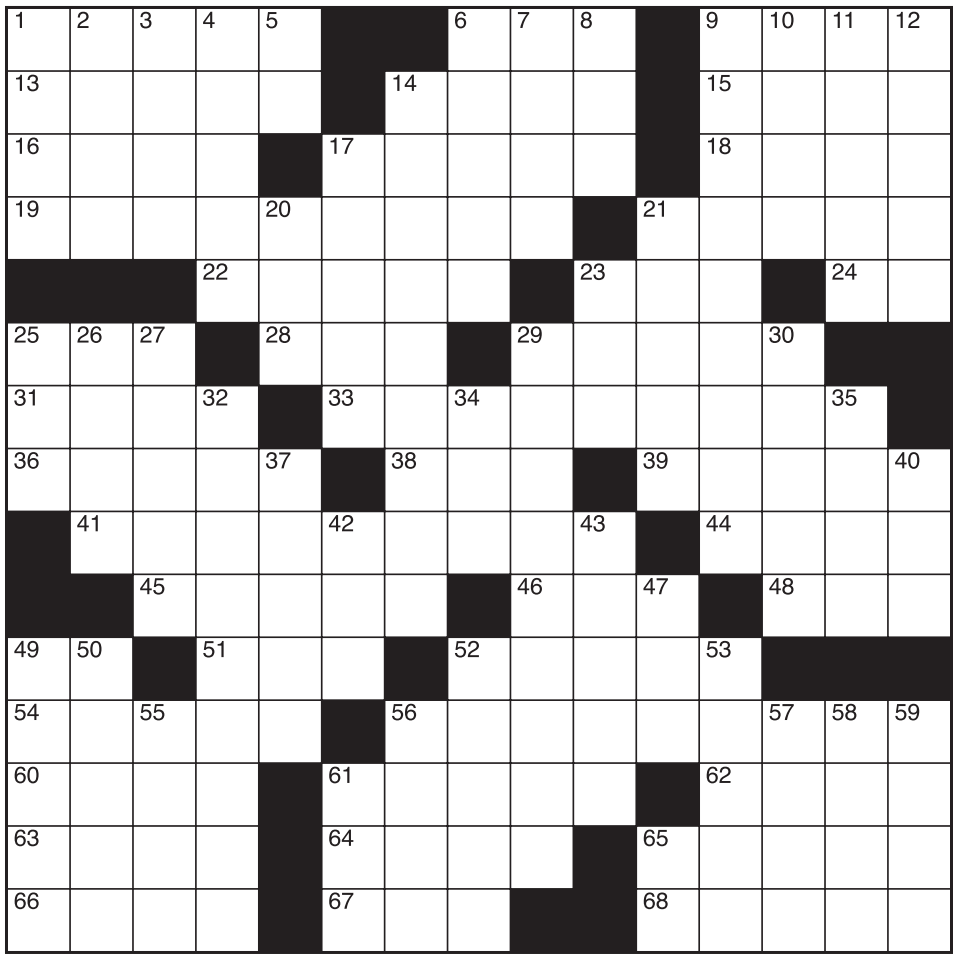

CLUES ACROSS
1. Skateboarders love them
6. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
9. Former Ohio State great Michael
13. Not dirty
14. Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
15. A Spanish river
16. Pig meat (French)
17. Famed astronomer
18. Floating ice
19. Broadcast
21. Aquatic mammals
22. Some are bath
23. Hip hop trio
24. NY Giants' #56
25. Small European viper
28. Neither
29. Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
31. Loud noise
33. Second year high schooler
36. "__ in comparison"
38. Golf score
39. Raise
41. Pastas
44. Easily manageable
45. Fathered
46. Pouch
48. Institute legal proceedings against
49. News organization
51. Unruly group of people
52. Fasten or secure
54. Sheets of glass
56. Doubled
60. Foolish person
61. Rooney and Kate are two
62. Small, rich sponge cake
63. Advice or counsel
64. Large wading bird
65. Famed British physicist
66. Narrow ridges (Swedish)
67. Field force unit
68. Lying face downward

CLUES DOWN
1. Proof of purchase (abbr.)
2. Soap ingredient
3. Blackbird
4. Single steps
5. Tin
6. Books have lots of them
7. Made of fermented honey and water
8. You can get it in a bed
9. Room for communal meals
10. Early Syrian kingdom
11. Provokes dry amusement
12. Use with "thou"
14. Mollusk
17. Grain storage units
20. Not a car, not a truck
21. Ooze
23. N. Vietnamese ethnic group
25. Tennis pros group
26. Something that's not what it's purported to be
27. E. Indian trees
29. Beloved December holiday
30. Regions
32. Metric unit of length
34. Peter's last name
35. Beige
37. 18-year period in astronomy
40. Where golfers begin
42. Basketball stat (abbr.)
43. Frocks
47. Soda comes in it
49. On approval
50. Trims by cutting
52. Small finch
53. Language Bura-__
55. Nothing
56. Imbecile (British)
57. Tropical Asian plant
58. Abba __, Israeli politician
59. Small freshwater fish
61. Indicates position
65. Data processing

Answers on page 14

War Boy

To mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, over the course of eight weeks, the Echo is publishing Haliburton resident Martin Hofland's first-person account of living through the war as a child in Holland, originally published in his book, War Boy. This is the seventh instalment.

Concentration camps and executions

Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam and Utrecht became open concentration camps. Barbed wire didn't make any difference. People were dropping dead from starvation at both sides. We were all trapped in by the brutal Nazi treatment of the holocaust of starvation. No matter where you were, in a ghetto, fenced in, or open concentration camp. In most labour concentration camps, the prisoners getting some food, they have to work for the Germans. But we had totally nothing! And by the brutality and looting the food by the Germans, the Dutch hated them. Many were killed by the resistance fighters. And when a dead German or collaborator will be found, the Germans retaliated very harshly. As a way of punishment, they round up groups of 10 or 20 men, put them against a wall and machine gun them down. As a boy of 12 years, I witnessed such an execution. The Germans surrounded a city like Rotterdam, and commands came from loudspeakers. Whoever does not stand in front of his house, packed with a blanket, spoon and plate, will be summarily executed. More than 50,000 men were rounded up that way. They were put on train box cars packed like sardines in a tin, and send to Russia's eastern front, "Stalingrad" to dig trenches under heavy fire and bombardment till they were exhausted and worked to death, and many died from disease and starvation. Most never returned back to Holland. The Germans carried out the same tactics in most cities.

Hunger and starvation

Next came the "winter of hunger" 1944/45. It turned out to be the most brutal, and deadliest in history. Forty thousand civilians were killed as hostages, and four million were on the brink of death by starvation. The most feared sickness was malnutrition, killing more than 50,000. Children and the old were the majority of victims. Millions suffered greatly from it, and many had serious health problems for the rest of their lives. My stomach was swollen like a balloon from malnutrition. Hitler used the method of starvation as a weapon to put Holland on her knees to win a war, but he failed! We also had to fight the snow and cold. With no fuel, it was almost as cold inside as it was outside. We had very few clothes. My only pair of shoes, I had holes in them the size of a potato, it was like walking barefoot. Cardboard helped until it got wet. My father's old coat was still too big for me, but I never took it off, even at bedtime. Besides killing six million Jews, the Germans were responsible for 50 million others in Europe, for a total of 68 million worldwide. Hitler`s holocaust of hunger had taken its toll on humanity.

Hardship and hope

It was a struggle to survive. It was a race against time, and many were losing the race. We looked death straight in the eye. The only thing that kept me alive was determination and hope, maybe tomorrow … tomorrow. People tried to support each other, but had nothing to offer except moral support. All the cats and dogs had been eaten. If you were lucky to catch a rat, you had a meal for the whole family. It was the darkest time of my life. The death rate multiplied four times. Rows of dead were laying in churches, with a label attached to the bony thin arms. The undertakers could not bury them fast enough. Coffins were made out of cardboard to replace those of wood. Hitler's holocaust of starvation had taken its toll on humanity.

> ***"I learned how to share and have compassion, and how to appreciate the smaller things in life.***

The broomstick Christmas tree

When Christmas arrived, all the trees in the free zones had already been burned for heat. I was determined to have a Christmas tree, and knew where to get one. Yes, it was back to the forest in the forbidden territory. And many German military zones were heavily protected by guards and minefields. Entering was a deadly risk of being shot or being blown up. I took a chance, because I wanted to have a Christmas tree. I managed to get some branches, hide them under my coat, and smuggled them home into the free zone. My father cut holes in a broomstick with a pair of scissors, and stuck the branches into them. It was the most beautiful tree in the world, and on Christmas Eve, we all sat on the floor around the tree, in a big cold empty room. We had no candles to light the room, no presents to give each other, not even an orange, no food to eat. I was so thin that you could play the piano on my ribs, but we were alive. While we sat under the tree, my mother told us the story of Christmas, and we sang "Silent Night." I still remember it as the best Christmas I ever had. We were so thankful to be alive, and to have each other. This gift of family love was the greatest gift I ever received, and it will always be tattooed in my memory. We still had our mother. After Christmas, the situation became worse by the day. People became very weak and sick, and there was no cure available. Thousands were dying from disease because of this lack of medicine. It didn't matter if you were rich or poor. Everyone was trying to survive on nothing. The smell of bread could have filled your stomach. Despite the hardships of the "Holocaust of Hunger," through the pain of Nazi brutality, I have learned about war and peace, life and death, love and hate. I experienced hunger, danger, and fear. I learned how to share and have compassion, and how to appreciate the smaller things in life. I also learned the true meaning of Christmas, which brought us hope and the strength to survive. I learned how to fold my fingers together in prayer when the bombs came down. I heard the voice that said to me "Hang on Martin, hang on."

Pursuing passions of the heart in the Highlands

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Owners of EvergreenCSD Fine Art Photography Gallery and Design Studio, Dana McMullen and Rose Janssen, are Haliburton Village's newest business owners and bring with them a spirit of optimism to their space at 158 Highland Street.

The public is invited to visit the gallery to see breathtaking photography and to seek communications services such as brand strategy, advertising campaigns, online learning modules and graphic design.

McMullen and Janssen have a dozen years of combined experience, winning awards for their photography and business work.

The gallery features the compelling images of McMullen, who was a National Geographic photographer from 2014 to 2017, with much of his exhibited work being limited edition HD metal prints featuring such areas as Death Valley, the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Park.

"Right now, I wanted to showcase some of the iconic stuff. What has been interesting is people have come in here [asking about the images]," he said. "There's been a good story to it. I don't know if it will sell. It may not sell, but it's been a good storytelling because people are seeing stuff they've never seen before, which is cool," he said.

The images of salt flats, waterfalls and bison were taken while working for client Xanterra Travel Collection, which is a privately owned U.S. park and resort management company based in Greenwood Village, Colorado. Over the last few months McMullen has been out taking photographs in the area and he said they are likely to be exhibited in the future.

He said he is ready to share the stories behind his photos.

"I want people to know that there is more out there in the world. Stuff that needs to be protected and all stuff that is endangered under some of the current administration in the United States. It's all under pressure right now for oil, drill. That stuff needs to be saved for sure," he said.

The married couple have renovated their space over three weeks and are ready to work for and with businesses.

Though they've worked with large clients such as Bloomingdale's and United Rentals, Janssen said smaller clients allow for more personal relationships.

"I think people connections are more important than anything. You know to make people feel like you listen to them, hear them, and know what they need. You'll do whatever you can to get what they need. That's what I want. I want personal connections to people," she said.

At the end of 2014, they quit their stable corporate jobs taking some of their clients with them to start their own business, EvergreenCSD in 2015. Having been a startup is something they remember when working with other new businesses.

McMullen said as a startup they came up with a tagline: speak naturally.

"We were always conditioned in the corporate world to speak that corporate language. You just couldn't speak naturally with your clients. You were scripted. You were totally scripted and you had to stay by your script because at the end of the day you had to walk out with a big contract," he said. "That wasn't us. That's not how we were brought up. So when we started our own company, it was no. We just speak naturally. We're more about making the relationship and the partnership. Business comes out of it and grows from that then that's great The relationship is more important to us. Where the corporate world, the contract is more important than the relationship."

Dana McMullen, left, and Rose Janssen invite the public and local business owners to EvergreenCSD Fine Art Photography Gallery and Design Studio located at 158 Highland Street in Haliburton. The exhibition venue features compelling images by award winning published photographer, McMullen, who was a National Geographic contributor from 2014 to 2017. Businesses can take advantage of dozens of years of combined experience shared by the couple in communication services./DARREN LUM Staff

Despite the decades of corporate experience these two share, they are at heart small town people.

Janssen travelled around, but grew up in a small town in Iowa while McMullen grew up in Tillsonburg, cottaging in Barry's Bay. Janssen has two children: one daughter is going for her master's degree in the U.S. while their younger son is attending his first year at Trent University in Peterborough.

Initially they wanted to open a storefront while they operated EvergreenCSD out of their home in Flagstaff, Arizona. It just never worked out until they came to the Highlands.

"But when we moved here what a great way to become part of the community and meet people. It's an idea we've been kind of playing with for a few years and so we kept looking at spaces when they became available," she said. "And Dana was like what about this spot? It just felt right. So we decided to go with it."

The couple's workspace will be at the back of the gallery, where graphic design projects can be done. They are also open to photography work such as weddings and graduations.

Janssen said they are a great team because of their complementary character and skill set.

When they worked at the same global firm McMullen was a creative director and Janssen was in national sales and was an account manager, providing a strategy for clients and budgeting. At EvergreenCSD, she is the communication strategist and he is the creative director.

"It's always been super natural, our communication. We always kind of had this natural connection, I guess and we still do. I know what I'm good at and he knows what he's good at. We need each other. We need the skills. We need the different personalities. It's just natural. I don't even know how to describe it. It's always been that way," she said.

While the couple will work out of Haliburton, there is a team located throughout North America including technical writers, videographers, an animator, voice talent and graphic designer. A junior designer may one day be needed in Haliburton.

Their journey to the Highlands began two years ago when McMullen and Jannsen were mentally ready to leave the U.S. For McMullen, it was a return home and for Janssen it was a new start. Part of it was related to the instability in the U.S. and another part of it was to have a start fresh and be able to fulfill a dream of being able to live, play and work where they can give back. After flying up here three times, they found a solar passive home with two acres on Eagle Lake, which represented their core values and appealed to their aesthetic sense.

At that time the couple thought they would operate the business out of their home. Then isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic set in and they realized it felt wrong. They decided establishing a business in town would not only fulfill a goal, but would also give back to their new community.

"In these COVID times ... in tough business times businesses have suffered," McMullen said. "A lot of our clients have shut down for months and we had no work. How can we get new work? We're not going to get new work without getting our name out for one. We're not going to get any local work for sure so doing this was 'OK, let's invest.' We're taking a big chance investing in these COVID times with a storefront, adding all these expenses we really didn't need in our life, but at the same time by pulling back and being isolated and kind of hoarding our money we're not doing anything for the community. We're not helping the community. A community that needs help. A community that has suffered through COVID. There's lots of empty stores. What could we do to help? So by bringing our graphic design business, our advertising know-how, bringing all that stuff here hopefully we can help small businesses as well."

Eventually, McMullen wants to be part of an effort of help promote the area.

He wants EvergreenCSD to be given a chance and said if the public supports them in their dreams they can help others achieve theirs. "I hope they support us and we're here to support them. I think when it comes to promoting small businesses we're here for them. We have, I would say, we have big city skills. We come from massive agencies and have all that experience. Now we want to offer it [to this community]," he said.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
TO
ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

- **DATE:** **TUESDAY, November 24th, 2020**
- **TIME:** **9:05 am**
- **LOCATION:** **TAKE NOTICE THAT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT WILL TAKE PLACE AS AN ELECTRONIC PUBLIC MEETING ONLY**

Application:

Lands of 1429665 Ontario Ltd.

- Purpose and Effect: The proposed amendment will rezone the lands from Urban Residential Type 1 *(R1)* and *Environmental Protection (EP) Zones* to Urban *Residential Type 1 (R1)* and *Environmental Protection (EP) Zones* in order to accurately delineate the EP boundary on the subject property.
- Location: Lot 4, Plan 637, in the Geographic Township of Dysart.

Due to the Covid-19 Emergency, Council passed By-law 2020-35 that amends the Dysart Et Al's Procedural By-Law to permit electronic participation in meetings for Council, Local Boards and Committees. **Therefore, there will not be an in-person meeting; this meeting will be conducted in an electronic format only**.

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Municipal Clerk at mbishop@Dysartetal.ca.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: about this application, including a copy of the draft by-law, is available by contacting Kris Orsan, Senior at korsan@dysartetal.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS: Contact the Planning and Land Information Department during regular office hours, Monday to Friday.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 3rd day of November, 2020.

Kris Orsan, CPT
Senior Planner, Planning and Land Information
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 626
E-mail: korsan@dysartetal.ca

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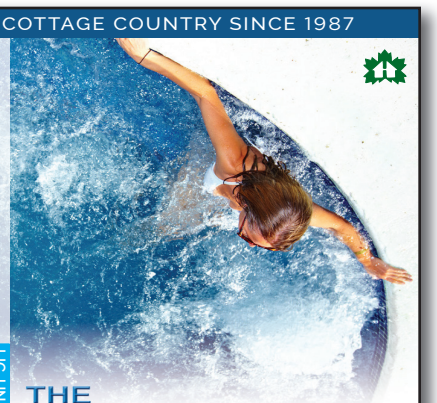
- Operations of Small Drinking Water Systems
- Limited Sub Systems
- Well Contractor
- Well Technician



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Hockey action

Above, Derrell Stamp of team Black follows through on his shot while on a breakaway during 55 plus hockey league action on Friday, Oct. 23 at the A.J. La Rue Arena in Haliburton. Team Black defeated Red 5-2. /DARREN LUM Staff

Left, players converge along the boards during 55 plus hockey league action.

New medical officer of health to begin April 2021

Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, medical officer of health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, was scheduled to retire in June of 2020 – then the coronavirus pandemic hit, delaying her departure.

Last week, the health unit announced that Noseworthy's last day would be Dec. 11, 2020 and that Dr. Natalie Bocking would be taking over starting in April 2021. In the interim, Dr. Ian Gemmill, former medical officer of health for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Public Health, will be filling the position.

Bocking has worked for the last four years as a public health physician at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority. She received her medical doctorate from McMaster University and is a public health and preventative medicine specialist. During her time in northern Ontario, she was also a locum family physician. She and her family now live in City of Kawartha Lakes.

"She has a wealth of knowledge and experience in providing public health programs and services in rural areas of the province and has most recently worked with northern First Nations communities to provide public health services," Doug Elmslie, chair of the board of HKPR District Health Unit, said.

He thanked Noseworthy for her time with the health unit. "Dr. Noseworthy has guided this health unit through some challenging times and we wish her all the best for her well-deserved retirement," he said. "Dr. Noseworthy has worked tirelessly to help provide quality public health programs and services to the residents in our communities and I know Dr. Bocking will do an excellent job in carrying on that work."

Staff

Dr. Natalie Bocking is to become the new medical officer of health at the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit starting in April. Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, whose retirement in June was delayed, will be leaving in December. In the interim, Dr. Ian Gemmill will be taking over. Bocking most recently worked in northern Ontario and is a public health and preventative medicine specialist. / Photo supplied

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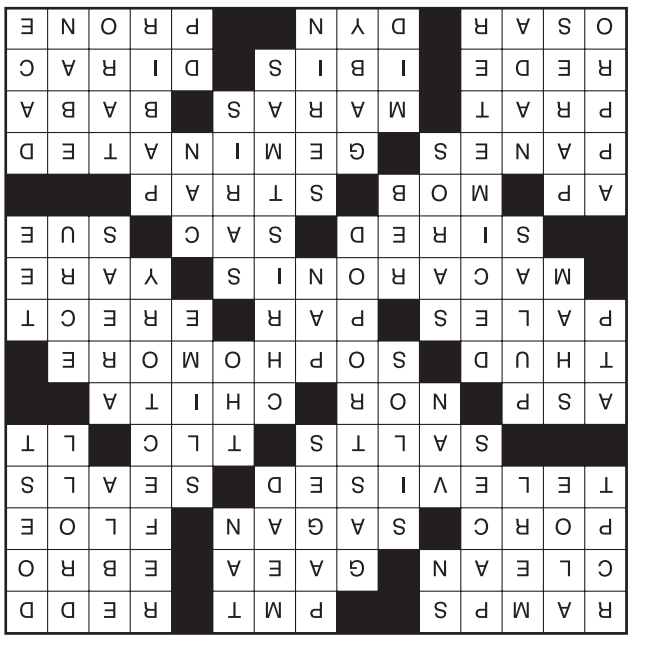

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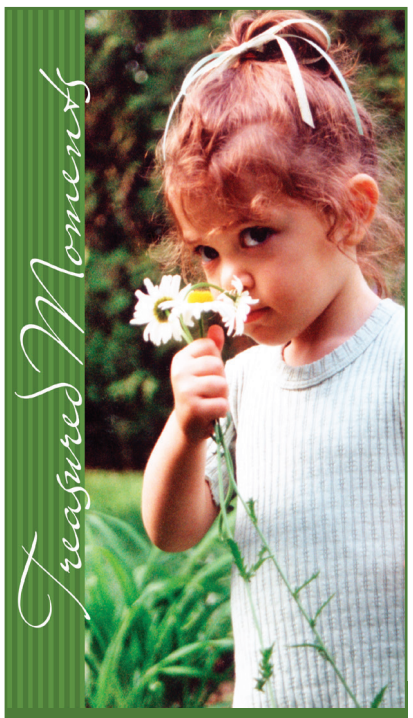

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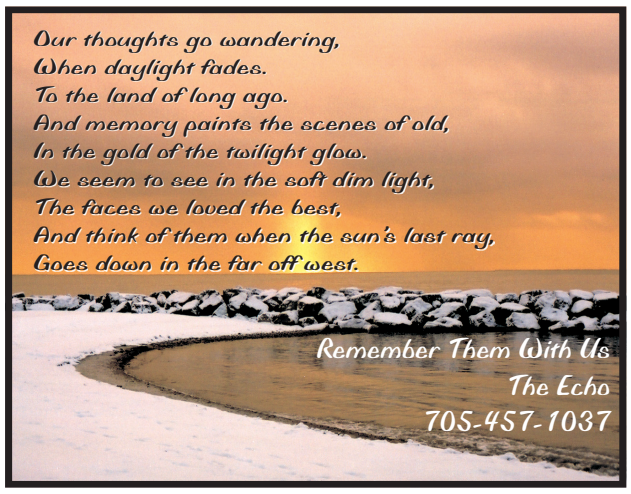

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Tuesday, November 15, 2011

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Keeping bugs at bay

Union highlights importance of training to hospital safety 3

Perils of popularity

Volunteer dental clinic needs dentists to ease wait list 12

Remembering them

Brian Hambly, Royal Canadian Legion branch 129 Sgt. at Arms, stands with Second World War veteran Billy Pickard during the laying of the wreaths in the Remembrance Day ceremony hosted by Haliburton at the cenotaph on Friday, Nov. 11. Pickard served with the Canadian army and provided support in postal work. There were 34 wreaths erected in front of the cenotaph.

Darren Lum
Echo staff

Patient transfers bog down EMS

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

Out-of-county transfers continue to be a problem for the county's EMS department.

According to stats presented by county EMS director Pat Kennedy at a committee meeting Nov. 9, the number of these transfers is on the rise.

While there were 348 transfers between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30 of 2010, there were 437 for the same period this year; an increase of 25 per cent.

While in 2010 there were 45 days where the department did three or more transfers out of the county, there have been 60 in 2011, representing an almost 40 per cent increase.

"One day we did eight transfers in one day," Kennedy said.

That day was in July.

According to Kennedy, this increase has "significant impacts of emergency up-staffing and shift over-run costs."

Heart attack victims requiring certain treatment represent the majority of these transfers.

Kennedy presented corrected call volume information for the county.

For the period of Jan. 1 to Sept. 30 of this year, the Haliburton base received 984 calls and the Minden base 718, for a total of 1,702.

Incorrect information supplied by the health ministry had previously put the Haliburton base at 872 calls and the Minden base at 583 calls, for a total of 1,455.

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